

Employment

August 30, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

THEMES/CONCERNS

- Offering experiences in pathways to employment
- Fostering relationships with employers
- Supported Employment (SE) rate structure
- Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD)/Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Interagency Agreement
- Tracking persons with disabilities hired by APD

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Suggest the use of peer relationships to offer students with disabilities the opportunity to experience job shadowing, internships, or similar pathways to employment.
- Foster relationships with employers open to providing job shadowing, internships, or similar opportunities for students or adults with disabilities to experience working in the competitive work force.
- Revise the rate structure used by APD to incentivize growth in the capacity of supported employment and related service providers. Noted was the Florida Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (ARF) recommendations sent to APD in recent weeks for possible revision of Supported Employment rates and questioned whether APD was reviewing these suggestions for possible adoption.
- The APD/VR interagency agreement needs to be updated to describe expected collaborative funding structures, define linkages between school, VR, and APD services, as well as define terminology and methodologies used in common.
- Suggest APD track and report the number and percentage of people with disabilities hired by the agency.